



MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926

Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 12

December 2014

Holiday Schedule:

- ◆ Christmas 2014:
 - ◇ Wednesday, December 24th,
(or Friday, December 26th)
 - ◇ Thursday, December 25th
- ◆ New Year's Day 2015:
 - ◇ Thursday, January 1st
 - ◇ Friday, January 2nd

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Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

By PRNewswire

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 2014 /PRNewswire/ --

reThink Wood, a coalition of interests representing North America's wood products industry, has proudly announced sponsorship of this year's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to encourage education about the important role that sustainable forests play in wood construction and the economy. Hallmark to holiday festivities in D.C., the annual Capitol Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be hosted this evening on the Capitol's West Front Lawn beginning at 5:00 p.m. The tree will be lit by Speaker of the House John A. Boehner, and hosted by Architect of the Capitol Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP, as the master of ceremonies.

As a natural, renewable material with a light carbon footprint, many architects and engineers are embracing wood as a structural material in their designs.

"Celebrating the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree is a great way to recognize our forest products industry within the walls of our communities and spur conversations around how wood from properly managed forests is a positive choice for both our Christmas trees at home and for the buildings

we live in," said Mike Theune, public affairs officer for Chippewa National Forest.

The 80-foot tall white spruce Capitol Christmas Tree, also known as the "People's Tree," recently completed its 2,000-mile cross-country journey from Minnesota to Washington D.C. for the 2014 season, participating in events in nearly 30 communities along the way. The annual holiday tradition, facilitated by the U.S. For-

est Service in partnership with Choose Outdoors, is an opportunity to celebrate the importance of forest products and the role of wood in the U.S. economy.

behalf of reThink Wood. "By promoting the use of wood products in construction, we support those forests and families, as well as contribute significantly to the U.S. economy through GDP and jobs in rural communities."



Samuel Corum/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

est Service in partnership with Choose Outdoors, is an opportunity to celebrate the importance of forest products and the role of wood in the U.S. economy.

"The Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting is a wonderful annual tradition that allows us to celebrate more than 22 million local families and private landowners who manage working forests in the U.S.," said Cees de Jager, Chief Marketing Officer of the Softwood Lumber Board on

In North America, responsible forest management has resulted in more than 50 consecutive years of net forest growth that exceeds annual forest harvests, supports more than one million direct jobs and contributes \$100 billion in U.S. gross domestic product. By specifying wood for buildings, architects and other construction professionals support the industry, while reducing the environmental impact of cities. To view the source article click [here](#).

"The Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting is a wonderful annual tradition that allows us to celebrate more than 22 million local families and private landowners who manage working forests in the U.S."

- Click [here](#) for more information about reThink-Wood
- Click [here](#) for more information about the U.S. Forest Service
- Click [here](#) for more information about Choose Outdoors



Mississippi Forestry Association

Click [here](#) to visit the MFA website for additional information.

“The training taught us ways that we can effectively use hands on tools and resources to educate young people on climate change.”



Click [here](#) for more information on Project Learning Tree.

2014 MFA Annual Meeting

By Anna Kendall

The 2014 Mississippi Forestry Association Annual Meeting, held in Biloxi in late October, was a huge success. The exceptional list of speakers included the President and CEOs of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, the American Forest Foundation, and Resource Management Service. Along with these informative technical sessions and outstanding speakers, many attendees were able to see more of

the Mississippi Gulf Coast through participating in a trip to the Grand Bay Wildlife Refuge, a tour of Ocean Springs, a golf outing, and various other events.

Several Mississippi Forestry Commission employees were recognized as 2014 District Tree Farm Inspectors of the Year. These award winners include Brad Joiner, East Central

District; Matthew Simpson, Northwest District; James Shumpert, Southeast District, and Baxter Rowley, Southwest District. The Mississippi Forestry Foundation Silent Auction held in conjunction with the annual meeting raised over \$15,000. These funds will help support public outreach efforts such as Project Learning Tree, Teachers Conservation Workshops, and other educational projects.

SFCC Facilitator Training

In November, twenty educators representing eight states gathered at the 4-H Center near Little Rock, Arkansas to attend the Southeastern Forests and Climate Change (SFCC) facilitator training. The group explored climate science, systems thinking, and the role forests play in a changing climate.

sions and adapting to changing climatic conditions. The module explores these concepts in 14 experiential activities by using research related to the goals of PINE-MAP—a regional research, education, and extension program focused on southern pine management and climate change.

mation on climate change in the Southeast. The 4-H center is a wonderful facility with outstanding coordinators and staff. We all left with a facilitators kit and a greater understanding of what climate change is all about. The training taught us ways that we can effectively use hands on tools and resources to educate young people on climate change.”

Project Learning Tree (PLT), the University of Florida, and PINEMAP worked together to develop a new secondary module to help educators in the Southeast teach about climate change impacts on forest ecosystems, the role of forests in sequestering carbon, and strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emis-

Meacham Harlow, Southern Outreach Officer had the following to say about her experience with the training: “I was fortunate enough to fill in for Harold Anderson (PLT Coordinator for Mississippi) at this facilitator training. I attended this 3 day workshop to unveil the new teaching module and receive additional infor-

The Southeastern Forests and Climate Change (SFCC) facilitator training was attended by Project Learning Tree State Coordinators, or designated participants from their state.



Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

Who Am I?

November:

Eastern Baccharis

Found on p.265 of
MS Trees Guide

Leaves:

Type: bipinnately compound, odd pinnately compound, alternate, deciduous; 8-25 branchlets (30-60 leaflets/branchlet)
Size: 20.0" long; leaflets 0.38" - 0.5" long
Margin: ciliate; entire
Apex: rounded to obtuse

Base: inequilateral

Shape: leaflets falcate (sickle-shaped)

Color: green to yellow-green above; paler below

Surface: glabrous above; glabrous below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: Slender

Color: green

Surface: slightly zig-zag branching; multiple raised light gray lenticels

Buds:

Size: minute; pseudoterminal buds

Shape: rounded

Color: brown

Surface: few-scaled

Fruit and Flowers:

Legume: glabrous

Size: 4.0" - 8.0" long; 1.5 " wide

Shape: oblong-pointed; flattened

Color: green; turning gray-brown

Flower: monoecious;

flower pink with red tips; threadlike, 5.0" - 7.0" long, conspicuous

Bark: smooth; gray to brownish gray; faint vertical striations

Physical Attributes:

Form: single or multiple stem

Size: 25.0', mature

Growth Rate: rapid;

20.0' maximum @ 20 yrs

Life Span: moderate (>50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: intolerant

Drought: medium

Fire: medium

Anaerobic: low

Propagation: seed (no cold stratification required); bare root; container

Other: resprout/coppice potential

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: urban areas and roadsides

Soil Texture: fine - coarse

Soil pH: 4.8 - 7.3

Range: exotic; naturalized

throughout much of the South; in Mississippi throughout

Wildlife Value & Uses:

attracts bees, birds, and butterflies

Timber Value and Uses:

none

Landscaping Info: fre-

quent choice of homeowners; fine texture, fragrant and showy flowers, and fast growth rate make it a popular plant; good summer color; attracts hummingbirds; reseeds; Charlotte and Tryon cultivars are disease resistant; negatives --- subject to vascular wilt disease and webworm

Other Facts: introduced

to the U.S. from Asia in 1745; dried leaves used as a tea substitute; cooked flowers eaten as a vegetable; gummy extract from the plant used as a plaster for abscesses, boils, etc., and also as a retentive in fractures and sprains -Plants for a Future (PFAF) website

- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

Who Am I?



Click [here](#) to visit the St. Jude website for additional information on donating supplies.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Mr. Randy Brooks (SCD) took the initiative to lead a collection effort for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude is unlike any other pediatric treatment and research facility. Discoveries made there have completely changed how the world treats children with cancer and other catastrophic diseases. With research and patient care under one roof, St. Jude is where some of today's most gifted researchers are able to do science more quickly. Mr. Brooks reached out for toy donations from people around the South Central and Southeast districts. These efforts were very successful; in just three weeks enough toys had been donated to fill a large trailer. Then Mr. Brooks, along with other volunteers took the donated toys to the children at the St. Jude Children's research hospital in Memphis, TN. His efforts



will be greatly appreciated this Christmas by the children at St. Jude this holiday season.



Outreach—Sawdust and Splinters

The Mississippi Forestry Commission outreach team was able to participate in the 2nd annual Sawdust and Splinters Logging Sporting event. They managed a booth November 7-8 in Magnolia, Mississippi.

Sawdust and Splinters is a combination event of World Champion Lumberjacks and nationally

recognized Chainsaw Carvers. Sawdust and Splinters showcases the athleticism, endurance, strength, agility, talents, and sportsmanship of a wide range of participants.

There are 3 separate styles of events; Lumberjack, Pole Climbing and Chain Saw

Carving. Competitors come from all around the world.

The event also includes music, food, shopping, and a 5k run/walk to benefit the Wounded Warrior project.

Click [here](#) for the source article, and more information on the Sawdust and Splinters event.



Click [here](#) for more information on the Prescribed Burning Short Course.

Prescribed Burning Short Courses 2015

April 14-16th, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn
975 Highway 12 East
Starkville, MS

Cost: \$250

October 6-8th, 2015

Pearl River Community College
Woodall Technology Center
906 Sullivan Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Cost: \$250

Please contact **Jeff Ware** (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

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Arson in Amite County

By Meacham Harlow

Gillsburg, MS – On Thursday December 4, 2014, Joel L. Bass, 41 of Osyka, MS was arrested and charged with six counts of felony woods arson under MS Code 97-17-13. Bass confessed to setting six separate wildfires in and around the Gillsburg community of Amite County from January 2014 through November 2014.

One of the six wildfires started by Bass burned school land located in Section 16, Township 1 North, Range 6 East. Sixteenth Section School Trust land is managed by the MS Forestry Commission. The money that is generated through forestry practices such as timber sales is then put into the schools for supplies and school specific needs.

The MS Forestry Commission Law Enforcement Division would like to thank Amite County Service Forester, Bretta Palmer, for timely information on wildfires occurring in the Gillsburg area during the first and second week of Novem-

ber. In addition to these MFC employees, Murry Toney, Amite County Constable, and the citizens of Gillsburg provided critical information on Bass' whereabouts and possible motives during the time of the wildfires. This information was paramount in establishing probable cause to arrest and charge Bass.

In Fiscal Year 2014, which runs from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the MS Forestry Commission responded to a total of 46 fires which burned 509 acres in Amite County.

The two most common causes of wildfires across Mississippi are escaped debris burns and woods arson. In Mississippi, a person convicted for felony woods arson is sentenced

to the state penitentiary for not more than two years, nor less than one year, or can be fined not less than \$200, nor more than \$1,000, or both at the discretion of the court.



The Forestry Commission asks that anyone with information on any woods fire, or any suspicious behavior in regards to a woods fire, call the Woods Arson Hotline at 1-800-240-5161. Information leading to the arrest and conviction of a woods arsonist can be rewarded up to \$2,500.

Contact:

Meacham Harlow
Public Information Officer

“The two most common causes of wildfires across Mississippi are escaped debris burns and woods arson.”

- Click [here](#) for more information on wild-fire control.



“James Lee McCoy, Jr. was born May 26, 1951 to James Lee, Sr. and Princie Mae McCoy in Shubuta, Mississippi.”

In Memorial

James Lee McCoy, Jr. was born May 26, 1951 to James Lee, Sr. and Princie Mae McCoy in Shubuta, Mississippi. As a child, he was a member of New Pilgrim Baptist Church where he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He attended Riverview High School and later, Alcorn State University where he met Annette Dillon. They married in 1972 and from this union, 4 children were born.

One of his loves was traveling which led him to pursue a career behind the wheel. He drove for Metro City Bus, K-Mart Corporation, the U.S. Postal Service, and Waterman Bus Services. In 1991, he moved his family from Atlanta, Georgia to Magnolia, Mississippi where he found his final position with the Mississippi Forestry Commission and served diligently for more than 20 years,

He was a loving and devoted father and grandfather. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Lynn Anthony McCoy. He leaves behind 4 children, James (Kwanza) McCoy, Stephanie (Kalvin) Nathaniel, Jamar (Lori) McCoy, and Kevin (Jessica) McCoy; his two sisters Glenda (Leonard) Smith and Janie (Rev. B.R.) Williams; one brother Purvis McCoy; 12 grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

Personnel News

- Keith Beatty (ECD Asst. District Forester) and his wife welcomed a baby boy—James Haston Beatty, 8 lbs 2 oz.
- Sympathy to Martha Moore during this difficult time.
- Click [here](#) to view State Forester Charlie Morgan's holiday letter to the MFC Team.

WELCOME!

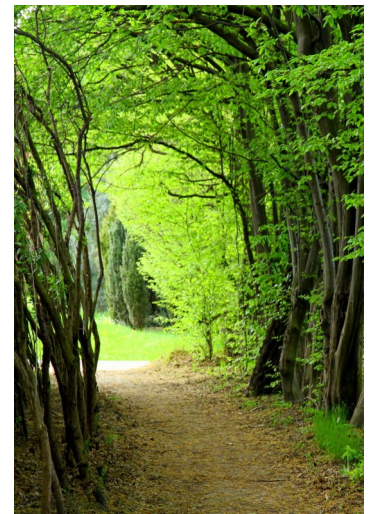
- Cory Nettles
- Dallante Arrington
- Grant Lovato
- Joseph Peavey
- Joshua Raines
- Marc Krider
- Mark Murphy
- Roger Wroten

Moving On

- Duane Henry Hodges
- Larry Brown



NASF 2014 Annual Report





Christmas Tree Safety

By the National Fire Protection Association

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. Take a moment to read these tips from the National Fire Protection Association. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

#1 - Picking the tree:

If you choose an artificial tree, be sure that it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as flame retardant.

If you choose a fresh tree, be sure that the needles are still green and do not fall off when touched.

#2 - Placing the tree:

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

#3 - Lighting the tree:

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are

only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs

for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

#4 - After Christmas:

Remove the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the

holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Did you know that each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees? Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help



“Did you know that each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees? Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.”

- Click [here](#) for more information about the National Fire Protection Association.

make your holidays safer.

One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures. Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. A heat source too close to the tree caused one in every five fires.

To view the source article from the National Fire Protection Association, click [here](#).





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www.mfc.ms.gov

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on Facebook!

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



DECEMBER 2014
Newsletter

Our Mission

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

